

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-69 (cancelled).

70. (Currently amended) A method for the selection and preparation of an effective antisense oligonucleotide for a nucleic acid comprising the steps of

- designing an antisense oligonucleotide corresponding to a target nucleic acid sequence, such that
  - a) the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least 8 nucleic acid residues,
  - b) the antisense oligonucleotide comprises a maximum of twelve elements, each of the twelve elements <sup>being A nucleotide</sup> being capable of forming three hydrogen bonds to cytosine bases,
  - c) the antisense oligonucleotide does not contain four or more consecutive elements within the target nucleic acid sequence,
  - d) the antisense oligonucleotide does not contain two or more series of three consecutive elements within the target nucleic acid sequence, and

Release  
9-16-04  
JZ